

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

In response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2005, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment claims 18-21 are added so that claims 12-21 are now pending.

The added dependent claims all depend directly or indirectly from claim 12. In view of the addition of the dependent claims, claim 12 is amended to be generic as to those dependent claims, not only through dependency relationships, but also through the text of claim 12. Claim 18 describes a method of periodically changing at least one of the pressure and the flow rate of the treatment fluid that circulates within a closed processing cup. This method is the periodic reversal of the direction of flow of the fluid. This claim, describing a method of achieving the periodic changing of at least one of the pressure and flow rate, is supported in the application, at least at page 13, lines 16-19, in addition to support found elsewhere in the specification and in original claims 13, 15, and 17.

New claim 19 merely specifies that the treatment fluid is a plating solution and that the process results in the deposition of a metal film on the surface of the member. This amended claim is supported not only by original claims 14 and 15, but several of the described embodiments of the patent application, including the first through fifth embodiments described in the patent application at pages 5-13 as well as the eighth through tenth embodiments described at pages 16-20 of the patent application.

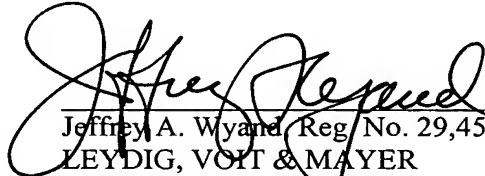
New claim 20 specifies that the circulation of the treating fluid is employed to remove residue from the surface of the member as described in the patent application with regard to the sixth and seventh embodiments at pages 14-16 of the patent application. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is copied from claim 18. Claim 21 is supported by the same disclosure that supports claims 18 and 20.

In response to the species election requirement, Applicants elect with traverse, claim 12, which is clearly generic to newly added claims 18-21. Therefore, claims 12 and 18-21 should be examined. To the extent the Examiner declines to examine any of the newly added claims, Applicants intend to rejoin those claims to the prosecution, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141, upon the allowance of claim 12.

The election is made with traverse because of the close relationship between the claims presented for examination. Clearly, there are three closely related sets of claims, each set including two claims. Examination of at least one set of the claims places no undue burden on the Examiner. Therefore, at least claims 12 and 13 should be examined together. Moreover, a search of any of any of the independent claims is likely to encompass art pertaining to the remaining five independent claims. For that reason, i.e., there is no undue burden on the Examiner in examining all six claims. Therefore, it is requested that the species election requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn so that all of claims 12-21 are immediately examined.

Prompt and favorable examination is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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